

Luke 4:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

Analysis

Jesus was tempted 'forty days' and 'did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.' The 40-day period parallels Moses' 40 days on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28) and Elijah's 40-day journey to Horeb (1 Kings 19:8). Jesus' fasting demonstrates His complete dependence on God and His prioritization of spiritual sustenance over physical. The note that He 'hungered' afterward emphasizes His genuine humanity—He experienced real physical need and vulnerability, making His temptation genuine, not playacting. Yet even in weakness, He resisted sin.

Historical Context

Fasting was an established Jewish spiritual discipline for seeking God, expressing repentance, and preparing for divine encounter. Moses and Elijah's supernatural fasts (40 days without food or water) were exceptional, marking them as unique prophets. Jesus' fast placed Him in this prophetic tradition. The detail that hunger came 'when they were ended' suggests supernatural sustenance during the 40 days, similar to Moses and Elijah. This established Jesus as the ultimate prophet who mediates God's word more perfectly than even Moses or Elijah.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' 40-day fast parallel Moses and Elijah, establishing Him as the ultimate prophet and mediator?
2. What does Jesus' genuine hunger after fasting teach about the reality of His human nature and His temptation?

Interlinear Text

ἡμέραις τεσσαράκοντα πειραζόμενος ὑπὸ τοῦ διαβόλου

days forty Being of the devil
G2250 G5062 G3985 G3588 G1228

καὶ οὐκ ἔφαγεν οὐδὲν ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ἐκείναις καὶ

And nothing he did eat in days those And
G2532 G3756 G5315 G1722 G2250 G1565 G2532

συντελεσθεισῶν αὐτῶν ὕστερον ἐπείνασεν

were ended when they he afterward hungered
G4931 G846 G5305 G3983

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 34:28 (Parallel theme): And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

1 Kings 19:8 (Parallel theme): And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.

Hebrews 2:18 (Parallel theme): For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Hebrews 4:15 (Parallel theme): For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Deuteronomy 9:9 (Parallel theme): When I was gone up into the mount to receive the tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant which the LORD made with you, then I abode in the mount forty days and forty nights, I neither did eat bread nor drink water:

John 4:6 (Parallel theme): Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.

Deuteronomy 9:18 (Evil): And I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights: I did neither eat bread, nor drink water, because of all your sins which ye sinned, in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

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